

Approved May 29, 1997.

Effective September 1, 1997.

---

CHAPTER 440

H.B. No. 1825

AN ACT

relating to access to criminal history record information by the State Bar of Texas.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.135 to read as follows:

*Sec. 411.135. ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION: STATE BAR OF TEXAS. (a) The general counsel of the State Bar of Texas is entitled to obtain from the department criminal history record information maintained by the department that relates to a person who is:*

*(1) a person licensed by the state bar and who is the subject of or involved in an investigation of;*

*(A) professional misconduct relating to a grievance filed under the disciplinary rules of the state bar; or*

*(B) barratry, the unauthorized practice of law, or falsely holding oneself out as a lawyer, in violation of Section 38.12, 38.122, or 38.123, Penal Code;*

*(2) a witness in any disciplinary action or proceeding conducted by the state bar, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals, or any court; or*

*(3) an applicant for reinstatement to practice law.*

*(b) Information received by the state bar is confidential and may be disseminated only in a disciplinary action or proceeding conducted by the state bar, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals, or any court.*

*(c) The state bar shall destroy criminal history record information obtained under this section promptly after a final determination is made in the matter for which the information was obtained.*

SECTION 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on May 2, 1997: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 19, 1997: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 29, 1997.

Effective May 29, 1997.

---

CHAPTER 441

H.B. No. 1977

AN ACT

relating to risk limitations for certain insurance companies.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 1(a), Article 21.72, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows: